

Horn of Africa – Complex Emergency

JUNE 23, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- More than 55 million people experienced acute food insecurity across seven East African countries in 2022, with Kenya and Somalia seeing the highest increases in acute food insecurity between 2021 and 2022.
- Drought-affected populations in southern and southeastern Ethiopia are projected to experience Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity through September 2023.
- Kenya experienced favorable rains between March and May; however, drought-affected populations in the ASALs continue to experience above-average levels of malnutrition, high prices, and limited food availability.
- Conflict, drought conditions, and large-scale flooding displaced more than 1 million people across Somalia between January 1 and May 10.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING	USAID/BHA ¹	\$1,314,432,682
	For the Horn of Africa Response in FY 2023	State/PRM ²
Total		\$1,416,647,659

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

² U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

More Than 55 Million People in the Horn of Africa Experienced Acute Food Insecurity in 2022 Amid Funding Challenges

More than 55 million people experienced Crisis—IPC 3—levels of food insecurity or above in seven countries in and around the Horn of Africa in 2022, including Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, among others, according to an Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) analysis of the UN World Food Program (WFP)'s 2023 Global Report on Food Crises.³ Among the countries included in the analysis, Kenya and Somalia saw the most significant increases in food-insecure populations since 2021. Meanwhile, Ethiopia recorded the largest population facing acute food insecurity in 2022, with 23.6 million people experiencing Crisis or worse conditions and nearly 5 million children suffering from wasting, the deadliest form of malnutrition. High levels of acute food insecurity are a result of compounding effects of the three-year drought in the Horn of Africa, macroeconomic shocks, and protracted conflict that disrupted humanitarian access, livelihoods, and markets.

While Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia all experienced favorable rainfall during the annual March-to-May rainy season, recovery from the three-year drought remains slow, as multiple successful rainy seasons are required for populations to recover from drought and rebuild livelihoods and herds, according to IGAD. At the same time, funding challenges may hinder humanitarian response efforts and limit drought-affected populations' access to lifesaving assistance. In a June 7 meeting with humanitarian donors, the UN noted the drought response remains underfunded, with the 2023 humanitarian response plans for Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia only 24 percent, 28 percent, and 30 percent funded, respectively, as of June 23. Shifting prioritization agreements between national governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UN agencies, and international donor governments resulted in inconsistent distribution of funding across countries and sectors, according to the UN. For example, the protection sector is funded at 37 percent in Kenya, while only 10 percent and 5 percent funded in Somalia and Ethiopia, respectively, according to the UN. The U.S Government (USG) has contributed more than \$1.4 billion to the Horn of Africa drought response in FY 2023, representing more than 70 percent of donor contributions in 2023.

Emergency Levels of Food Insecurity Projected in Drought-Affected Areas of Ethiopia

Emergency!—IPC 4!—and Crisis! outcomes are expected to persist in drought-affected regions in southern and southeastern Ethiopia through at least September 2023, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).⁴ Households in drought-affected areas continue to experience persistent food consumption gaps and rely on severe coping strategies, with an average 22 percent global acute malnutrition rate in children ages five years and younger screened from January to April, above the 15 percent critical threshold. Due to drought impacts, households are migrating to access food and income and often rely upon debt, which may hinder recovery as high levels of debit can reduce households' ability to access credit in the future. Oromia Region's Borena and Liban zones, Somali Region's Afder and Dawa zones, and parts of Somali's Korahe and Shabelle zones as areas projected to be of highest concern in the coming months.

³ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

⁴ An "!" indicates that the phase classification would likely be worse without current or planned humanitarian assistance.

Humanitarian Needs Persist Among Sudan Migrants in Ethiopia

Approximately 54,000 people—including an estimated 28,000 Ethiopian returnees and 23,000 refugees and asylum seekers—have entered Ethiopia as of June 22, fleeing armed conflict in Sudan that began in late April, the UN reports. Of those, more than 52,000 individuals entered Ethiopia through the Metema point of entry in Amhara Region’s North Gondar Zone; border crossings have also occurred in Benishangul Gumuz and Gambela regions. Newly arrived individuals require food, health, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance, as well as support for onward transportation. In response to urgent needs, USG partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is providing multi-sectoral assistance, including immediate health and WASH assistance, onward transportation, and protection assistance in Metema. Furthermore, emergency medical teams, supported by the Government of Ethiopia Ministry of Health, have assisted at least 2,800 people with various health concerns as of June 13, according to the UN. Additionally, the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission provided bottled water to more than 11,600 people and high-energy biscuits to approximately 450 people as of June 8.

Food Insecurity Likely to Persist in Drought-Affected Areas of Kenya

The March-to-May rainy season was among the wettest recorded in the past 40 years across much of Kenya’s arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), driving improvements in access to water resources and livestock conditions, slowly increasing milk production and consumption, according to a FEWS NET update published in May. However, food insecurity remains a critical challenge in the ASALs due to the time lag between drought recovery and food availability; FEWS NET projects that Stressed—IPC 2—to Crisis levels of acute food security will persist in the ASALs through September. Food insecurity is expected to be adversely affected by an anticipated below-average harvest in July following the March-to-May rainy season due to limited access to seeds and fertilizer at the start of the season. In addition, staple food prices remain high due to low local food availability following five successive seasons of drought. The high level of food insecurity is likely to also result in continued above-average rates of malnutrition. In May, in nearly 80 percent of the ASAL counties, mid-upper arm circumference measurements—a metric for measuring malnutrition—indicated above average levels of malnutrition, according to the Government of Kenya.

1 Million People Displaced in Somalia Since January

Conflict, drought conditions, and large-scale flooding displaced more than 1 million people across Somalia from January 1 to May 10, the highest recorded rate of displacement in a five-month period in the country’s history, according to a joint Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) report. The influx in displacement brought the total number of displaced people in Somalia to more than 3.8 million as of late May. The NRC–UNHCR report identified conflict as the driving cause of displacement, followed by floods that displaced approximately 408,000 people and drought conditions that displaced 312,000 people during the period. The majority of displaced populations fled to overcrowded internally displaced person (IDP) sites and urban areas in Gedo and Hiran regions, exacerbating the already significant level of humanitarian needs in the areas. Recently displaced populations across all areas of Somalia urgently require food and shelter assistance, as well as protection support, as displaced groups are likely to face heightened risks including evictions, family separation, and gender-based violence (GBV), according to the report.

Flood-Affected Populations in Hiran Require Urgent WASH Assistance

Severe flooding in early May affected nearly 470,000 people across Somalia; moreover, approximately 210,000 people in Hiran’s Beledweyne District were displaced due to the floods, according to a report

by the Danish Refugee Council and the UN. Furthermore, an estimated 300,000 people critically require emergency WASH support after flooding damaged 30 of Beledweyne’s 38 motorized shallow wells and approximately 8,000 sanitation facilities, according to the WASH Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian WASH activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders. Inadequate access to WASH facilities increases vulnerable populations’ risk of transmitting water-borne diseases such as acute watery diarrhea and cholera. The Government of Somalia Ministry of Health detected potential cholera cases in 28 districts across Somalia, although cholera has not been detected in Beledweyne as of June 4.

In response, WASH Cluster partners reached approximately 176,000 people in flood-affected areas of Beledweyne between May 12 and May 30, including the distribution of 13,000 hygiene kits—estimated to support 78,000 people—and supporting 1,200 people with temporary sanitation services. Additionally, a USAID/BHA partner delivered more than 10,500 gallons of clean water to an estimated 5,000 individuals for basic WASH and cooking needs, registered 3,000 households for multipurpose cash assistance, and supported 24 individuals facing protection-related issues as of mid-June.

KEY FIGURES



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USAID/BHA partners providing food assistance across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia



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USAID/BHA partners providing health services to vulnerable communities in Ethiopia and Somalia



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USAID/BHA partners providing nutrition assistance across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

To address acute food insecurity in the Horn of Africa, USAID/BHA supports 10 NGOs, IOM, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and WFP across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia to provide emergency food assistance—including U.S.-sourced pulses, vegetable oil, and wheat or sorghum—to populations in greatest need, including refugee households. USAID/BHA partners in the region also provide cash transfers to food-insecure households, enabling them to purchase food from local markets, where available.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA supports 10 NGOs and three UN agencies to improve access to health care services across Ethiopia and Somalia. USAID/BHA partners provide medical supplies, support mobile health units, and train community health workers to address urgent health needs, often integrated with nutrition and WASH programming. In addition, State/PRM partners support essential health interventions for asylum-seekers, refugees, and other vulnerable populations in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. In April, a USAID/BHA partner supported 33 health facilities across four regions in Somalia and provided hygiene kits to 4,000 IDPs.

NUTRITION

USAID/BHA partners are leading efforts to prevent and treat wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. Working through 11 NGOs and four UN agencies, USAID/BHA supports community-centered and evidence-based programs aimed at decreasing malnutrition-related illnesses and mortality by strengthening prevention efforts, as well as identification and treatment of wasting, particularly among

children and pregnant and lactating women. USAID/BHA nutrition partners in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia implement life-saving nutrition services as part of the national health systems and integrate nutrition assistance with food security, health, livelihood, and WASH interventions to prevent excess mortality and improve resilience among drought-affected households.



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USAID/BHA partners providing protection services to drought-affected communities in the Horn of Africa

PROTECTION

While partners integrate protection concerns into all USAID/BHA- and State/PRM-supported activities, USAID/BHA is also supporting 12 implementing partners responding to conflict- and drought-generated protection needs across the Horn of Africa. Partners are expanding GBV case management support, training social workers and community-based case workers, and providing dignity kits—which contain items to address the specific needs of women and girls—to GBV survivors. Implementing partners are also providing mental health and psychosocial support services to conflict-affected communities in the region. In addition, State/PRM supports implementing partners in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia to provide protection services to crisis-affected refugees and IDPs. With USAID/BHA support, an NGO partner assisted more than 20 individuals affected by the recent flooding in Beledweyne with protection support, including medical treatment and psychosocial support, as of June.



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USAID/BHA partners providing WASH support to vulnerable populations

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support WASH programming throughout the Horn of Africa to prevent communicable disease outbreaks, including cholera, and acute malnutrition in children and mothers. State/PRM continues to reach IDPs and refugees with critical WASH activities, such as supporting UNHCR with the rehabilitation of boreholes in Ethiopia's Somali and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions. In addition, through partnership with IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, and 15 NGO partners, USAID/BHA supports partners in conducting critical WASH activities, including conducting hygiene awareness sessions, providing safe drinking water to people in need, and rehabilitating water systems destroyed by conflict. USAID/BHA partners are also training local health workers to prevent and treat suspected cholera cases in their own communities.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Populations across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia struggle with a confluence of recurring climatic shocks, widespread food insecurity, and reduced access to livelihoods. These ongoing challenges, exacerbated by persistent conflict and resultant displacement, contribute to sustained humanitarian needs and ongoing complex emergencies. USG humanitarian assistance is designed to remain flexible and respond to needs as they arise, providing support to crisis-affected populations across the Horn of Africa.
- USAID/BHA continues to respond to acute needs resulting from persistent dry weather in parts of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, with five consecutive seasons of poor rainfall between 2020 and 2022

leading to the most severe drought on record in the Horn of Africa in the last 70 years. Critical water shortages in drought-affected areas have significantly undermined livestock conditions, livelihoods, and food security. The legacy USAID Office of Food for Peace and legacy USAID Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance responded to heightened food and nutrition needs resulting from drought in Ethiopia between 2015 and 2018, as well as drought in Kenya and Somalia between 2016 and 2018.

- Intercommunal conflicts in Ethiopia have generated displacement, exacerbated humanitarian needs, and impeded humanitarian access since 2018. In Somalia, ongoing conflict—related to al-Shabaab attacks and resultant military operations, as well as intercommunal violence—continues to contribute to displacement and food insecurity, while restricting access to livelihoods. Sustained life-saving assistance, coupled with interventions aimed at building resilience, is critical to help conflict-affected households meet their basic needs and rebuild assets.
- On October 28, 2022, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Tracey Ann Jacobson renewed the declaration of humanitarian need (DHN) for Ethiopia for FY 2023 to assist vulnerable populations adversely affected by armed conflict and climatic shocks, including the ongoing drought. On October 19, 2022, U.S. Ambassador Margaret Whitman renewed the DHN for Kenya for FY 2023 due to the drought-driven complex emergency. On October 11, 2022, U.S. Ambassador Larry E. André renewed the DHN for Somalia for FY 2023 in response to the ongoing complex emergency, including climatic shocks and protracted conflict.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2023^{1,2}

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING IN ETHIOPIA FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			
Action Against Hunger/USA (AAH/USA)	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Oromia, Somali	\$2,500,000
CARE	Agriculture, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Oromia, Somali	\$4,000,000
Concern	Nutrition, WASH	Somali	\$2,230,000
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$87,491,685
	Agriculture, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food	Oromia; SNNP	\$13,352,413
Ethiopia Red Cross Society	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Oromia	\$2,111,463
Fayyaa Integrated Development Organization (FIDO)	Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Benishangul Gumuz	\$1,000,000
Food for the Hungry (FH)	Agriculture, WASH	Benishangul Gumuz	\$1,000,000
GOAL	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Oromia, SNNP, Somali	\$5,000,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Oromia	\$3,000,000
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Humanitarian Policy, Studies, Analysis, or Applications	Countrywide	\$500,000

IOM	Health, HCIMA, Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$18,000,000
Initiative for Pastoralists Communication (IPC)	Agriculture	Amhara, Oromia, SNNP	\$2,000,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Somali, SNNP, Oromia	\$6,000,000
Mercy Corps	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Oromia, SNNP, Somali	\$2,000,000
Organization for Welfare and Development in Action (OWDA)	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Somali	\$499,160
People in Need (PIN)	MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Oromia, SNNP	\$1,500,000
Plan USA	MPCA, Protection	Oromia	\$999,9999
Save the Children (SCF)	Agriculture, Health, MPCA, Nutrition, WASH	Oromia, Somali	\$5,000,000
Swiss Church Aid (HEKS)	Agriculture, WASH	Oromia	\$700,000
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$15,000,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Afar, Amhara, Beneshangul Gumuz, Oromia, SNNP, Somali, Tigray Region	\$2,500,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food; Nutrition	Afar, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambela, Oromia, Somali, Tigray	\$63,561,612
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid; Nutrition	Afar, Amhara, Beneshangul Gumuz, Gambela, Oromia, Sidama, SNNP, Somali, Tigray	\$109,994,219
World Vision	Agriculture, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Oromia, SNNP	\$3,150,000
	Program Support		\$82,866
TOTAL USAID/BHA DROUGHT FUNDING FOR ETHIOPIA IN FY 2023			\$353,173,416
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STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$43,800,000
UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$1,350,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR ETHIOPIA IN FY 2023			\$45,150,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA IN FY 2023			\$398,323,416
FUNDING IN KENYA FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			
AAH	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Nutrition, WASH	Isiolo, Mandera	\$7,000,000
Concern	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Nutrition, WASH	Marsabit, Samburu, Turkana,	\$9,000,000
IRC	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Samburu, Turkana	\$5,000,000
Kenya Red Cross Society	Food Assistance, Nutrition, WASH	Baringo, Turkana, West Pokot	\$7,000,000
Rural Community Development Agency (RACIDA)	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Nutrition, WASH	Mandera	\$9,000,000
SCF	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Nutrition, WASH	Garissa, Wajir	\$9,500,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food; Nutrition	Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo, Kitui, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana, Wajir	\$110,600,000
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Garissa, Isiolo, Kitui, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana, Wajir	\$38,656,013

Wajir South Development Association (WASDA)	Agriculture, MCPA, WASH	Wajir	\$3,000,000
World Vision	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Nutrition, WASH	Kitui, Tana River	\$7,000,000
	Program Support		\$63,310
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR KENYA IN FY 2023			\$205,819,323
STATE/PRM			
Windle International	Education	Garissa, Turkana	\$1,499,977
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$18,100,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$865,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR KENYA IN FY 2023			\$20,464,977
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN KENYA IN FY 2023			\$226,284,300
FUNDING IN SOMALIA FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			
IPs	Food Assistance, Health, HCIMA, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$282,281,336
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$6,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$388,675,000
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$68,317,558
	Program Support		\$166,049
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR SOMALIA IN FY 2023			\$755,439,943
STATE/PRM			
IP	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$16,000,000
UNICEF	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$20,600,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR SOMALIA IN FY 2023			\$36,600,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA IN SOMALIA IN FY 2023			\$792,039,943

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of June 23, 2023 and reflect estimated values of assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement, which are subject to change.

² USAID/BHA emergency funding for the Horn of Africa includes funding in both drought and non-drought areas of Ethiopia, as well as emergency funding in drought-affected areas of Kenya and Somalia. Funding specific to the Northern Ethiopia Crisis response can be found in [Northern Ethiopia Crisis Fact Sheets](#). In drought-affected areas across the Horn of Africa, USAID/BHA funding is responding to emergency needs related to drought as well as conflict and other emergency shocks.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed, often in the affected region; reduce the burden on scarce resources, such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space; can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)

- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)